



Eric Fefenberg / AFP



Training for the Contemporary Operational Environment







Terminal Learning

Objective

- **Identify the Principles of Counter Operational Environment (COE) TRADOC White Paper (Capturing Operational Environment)**



Enabling Learning

Objectives

- **Define terms and principles of Contemporary Operational Environment (COE)**
- **Identify Critical Variables of COE**
- **Recognize COE Framework**
- **Identify Current OPFOR**

References

- **Indicate Pillars of COE**



THE CSA SPEAKS

"Today, our Nation is at war and we are a critical part of the joint team—an Army at war. This is **not a new war**. Our enemies have been waging it for some time, and it will continue for the **foreseeable future**. As the President has stated, **'This is a different kind of war against a different kind of enemy.'** It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life.

“War is both a physical reality and a state of mind. War is **ambiguous, uncertain, and unfair**. When we are at war, we must **think and act differently**. We become more **flexible** and more **adaptable**. We must **anticipate** the ultimate reality check — **combat**. We must

ELO #1

- **Define Terms & Principles of the Contemporary Operational Environment**





OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT (OE)

A composite of the conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect the employment of military forces and bear on the decisions of the unit commander. (JP 1-02)



CONTEMPORARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT (COE)

**The OE that exists in the
world **today** and is expected
to exist in the **clearly
foreseeable future.****



THREE-BLOCK

"In one moment in time, ~~WAR~~ service members will be feeding and clothing displaced refugees—providing humanitarian assistance. In the next moment, they will be holding two warring tribes apart—conducting peacekeeping operations. Finally, they will be fighting a highly lethal mid-intensity battle. All on the same day, all within three city blocks. It will be what we call the three-block war."





The Message

- **Today, and into the foreseeable future, military organizations face a dynamic, multidimensional, and increasingly interconnected global operational environment.**
- **The overall readiness of our forces and leaders depends upon our ability to analyze and incorporate *current and future realities in our training programs.***

ELO #2

- **Identify Critical Variables of COE**





CRITICAL VARIABLES IN THE COE

Any OE, in the Real World or in the Training Environment, Can Be Defined in Terms of 11 Critical Variables:

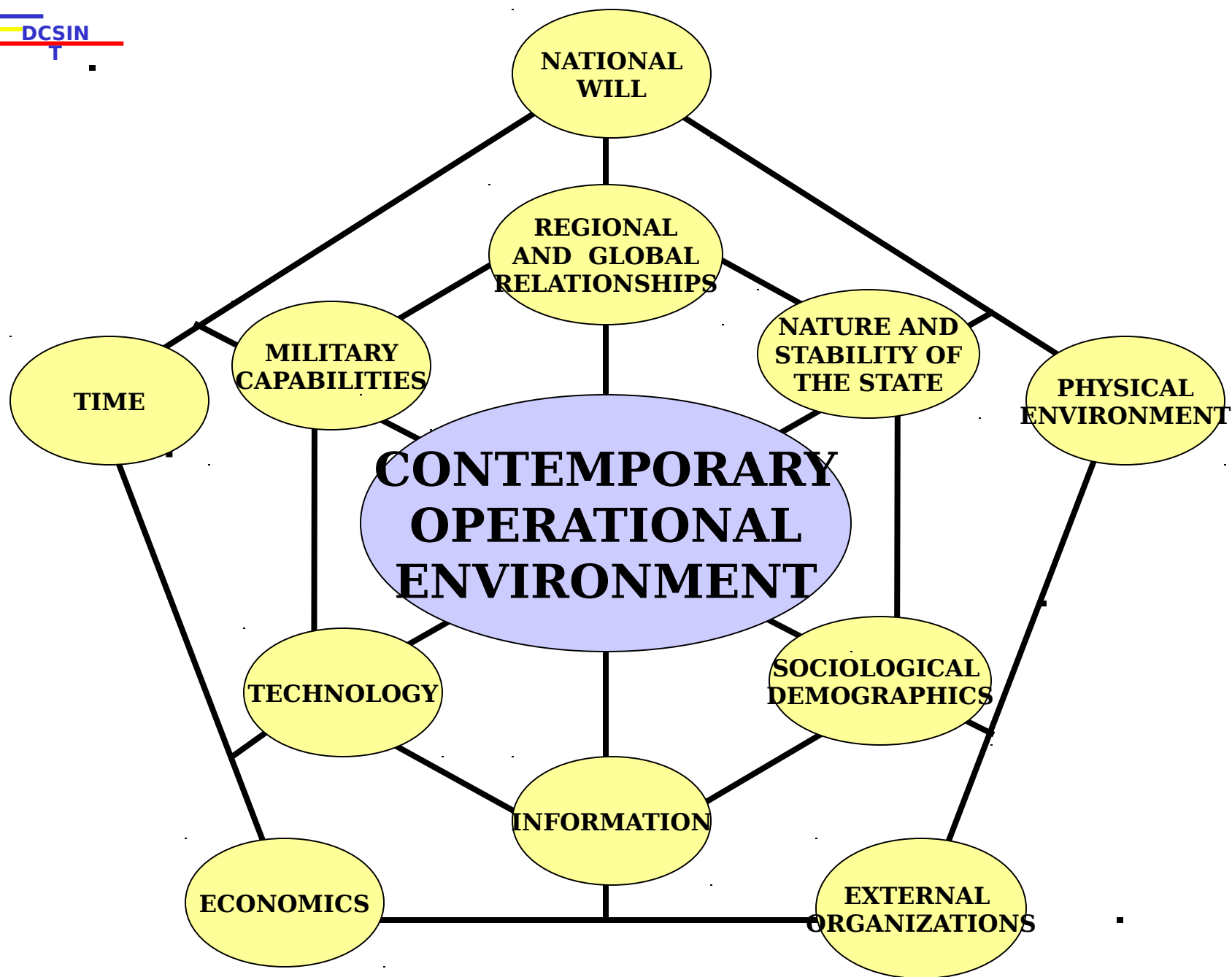
- Physical environment (Terrain, Complex vs Simple & Weather)
- Nature and stability of the state (Who's in Charge)
- Sociological demographics (Cultural, Religious & Ethnic / Urban Environments)
- Regional and global relationships (Alliances & Coalitions / Political, Military or Cultural)
- Military capabilities (Conventional vs Asymmetric)



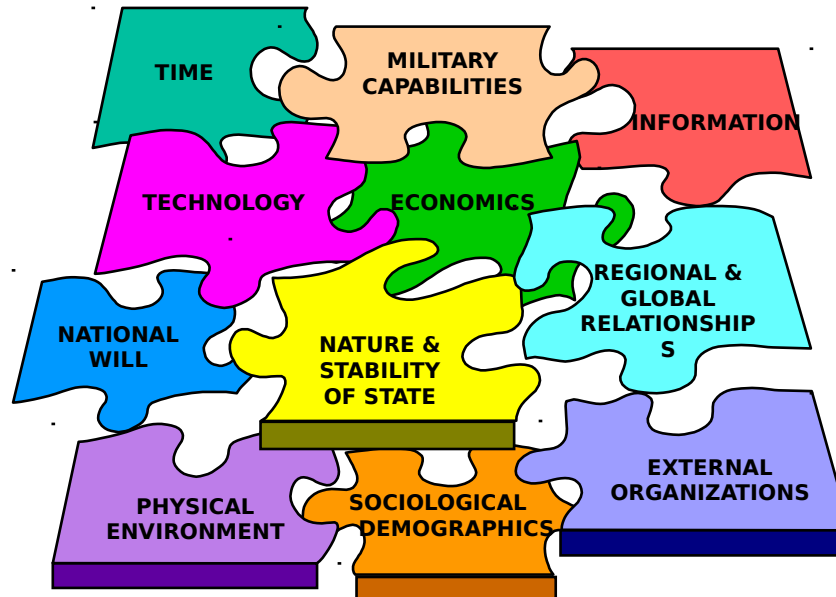
CRITICAL VARIABLES IN THE COE

Any OE, in the Real World or in the Training Environment, Can Be Defined in Terms of 11 Critical Variables:

- Technology (What others can: Develop, Produce, Purchase or Import)
- Information (Technology, Media, Situational, and Warfare)
- External Organizations (PVOs, NGOs, and Media)
- National Will (People, Government & Military)
- Time (Preparation, Op-Tempo, Duration)



CRITICAL VARIABLES IN THE COE



Any OE, in the Real World or in the Training Environment, Can Be Defined in Terms of 11 Critical Variables

ELO #3

- **Recognize COE Framework**



COE PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK

- To understand and analyze the complex and ever-changing combination of conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect real-world military operations.
- To ensure that training environments represent the degree of unpredictability and complexity present in real-world OEs in a manner that sufficiently challenges the training audiences.



ACTORS

– Nation-states:

- Core
- Transition
- Rogue
- Failed or Failing

– Non-state actors:

- Rogue actors:

- Insurgent.
- Terrorist.
- Drug-trafficking.
- Criminal.

- Third-party actors:

- Humanitarian relief organizations.
- Refugees/IDPs.
- Media.
- Transnational corporations
- Other civilians on the battlefield.





ENEMY

The individual, group of individuals (organized or not organized), **paramilitary or military** force, national entity, or national alliance that is **in opposition** to the United States, its allies, or multinational partners. (FM 101-3-1) **An adversary or opponent.**



THREAT

(Potential Adversary)

Any specific foreign nation or organization with intentions and military capabilities that suggest it could become an adversary or challenge the national security interests of the United States or its allies.

(AR 350-2, Opposing Force Program)

ELO #4

- **Identify Current OPFOR References**





FY 04 TRADOC COMMAND TRAINING GUIDANCE

“FY 03 saw us making significant strides in divesting ourselves of Cold War tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) in our training and education and at our combat training centers (CTCs). In FY 04, we must complete that divestment and fully implement full-spectrum operations in the contemporary operational environment (COE) at our CTCs and in our classrooms.”

“Make this the year we unequivocally divest ourselves of Cold War doctrine, scenarios, threat, opposing force (OPFOR), and operational environment; and completely embrace the COE.”



HOW THE WORLD HAS EVOLVED

Cold War Army

- ✓ Mission Focused on Soviet-Bloc Threat:
 - Soviet Union
 - Warsaw Pact
 - North Korea
 - Cuba
- ✓ Forward-Deployed Forces Overseas
- ✓ But We Fought Elsewhere

Today's Army

- ✓ Many Possible Threats
- ✓ CONUS-Based Forces
- ✓ Capability to Move Our Forces
- ✓ Broad Range of Missions Worldwide
- ✓ Mobile and Lethal Forces

The Army of 2020 and Beyond

?

Iraq

Bosnia

Afghanistan

Haiti

Kosovo

Desert Storm

Panama

Somalia



OPPOSING FORCE (OPFOR)

What kind of OPFOR is needed to train for COE

- **Military and/or paramilitary forces.**
- **Nation-state and/or non-state.**
- **Challenging and non-cooperative sparring partner.**
- **Has strengths and weaknesses.**
- **Thinks and acts differently.**



COLD WAR OPFOR

Opposing Force (OPFOR)

An organized force created by and from U.S. army units to portray a unit of a **potential adversary armed force.**

AR 350-2 (1976)



CONTEMPORARY OPPOSING FORCE (OPFOR)

A plausible, flexible military and/or paramilitary force representing a composite of varying capabilities of actual worldwide forces, used in lieu of a specific threat force, for training and developing US forces.

AR 350-2 (2004)



OPFOR FIELD MANUALS

- FM 7-100 OPFOR Doctrinal Framework and Strategy
- FM 7-100.1 OPFOR Operations
- FM 7-100.2 OPFOR Tactics
- FM 7-100.3 OPFOR: Paramilitary and Nonmilitary Organizations and Tactics
- FM 7-100.4 OPFOR Organization Guide
- FM 7-100.5 OPFOR: Worldwide Equipment

TRADECADCSINT-Threats Collaboration Center on AKO
Guide



ARMY KNOWLEDGE COLLABORATION CENTER

 Army KCC Home

 Army Communities

 TRADOC

 DCSINT

 ADCSINT-FUTURES

 ADCSINT-Threats

 100.3 TSP

 Assessing the OE of Iraq

 COE Admin Force Structure

 FM 7-100 Series

 ST7-100BattleBook for COE

 TTT

 Terrorism

 World Wide Equipment

ELO #5

- **Indicate Pillars of COE Implementation**





COE Implementation In Training Institutions

- **POIs integrate, as appropriate, the OPFOR doctrine and concepts as described in the FM 7-100 series manuals.**
- **Teaching scenarios use an OPFOR that operates according to the FM 7-100 series of doctrinal manuals and is equipped and organized according to a TRADOC DCSINT-approved OB.**
- **COE variables are manifested in the curriculum, scenarios, and POIs in a fashion sufficient to —**
 - **Provide realistic conditions and challenges.**
 - **Produce desired training outcomes and leader development goals.**



COE - THE TRAINING “CONDITION”

TASK	CONDITION	STANDARD
Mission Essential Tasks (From Army Universal Task List)	Contemporary Operational Environment (Live or Simulated)	Desired Training Outcome s



Example of an Infantry Individual Soldier Task

Mission Essential Task:	Engage Targets with an M203 Grenade Launcher
Conditions:	In a field or garrison environment, given a zeroed M203 grenade launcher mounted on an M16A1 or M16A2 rifle, enemy targets located at engage able ranges, and sufficient ammunition.
Standard	Enemy targets are destroyed or disabled without causing injury or death to friendly personnel.



Example of a COE Infantry Individual Soldier Task

Mission Essential Task:	Engage Targets with an M203 Grenade Launcher
Conditions:	While on patrol , in a field or garrison environment, given a zeroed M203 grenade launcher mounted on an M16A1 or M16A2 rifle, enemy targets located at engage able ranges, and sufficient ammunition. The Soldier has been provided guidance on the rules of engagement (ROE) and/or rules of interaction (ROI). Coalition forces and noncombatants (such as refugees, media, NGOs and/or contractor personnel) may be present in the operational area.
Standard	Enemy targets are destroyed or disabled without causing injury or death to friendly, coalition, and noncombatant personnel.



Phasing COE Implementation

Crawl **** Initial instruction under relevant conditions**
(Classroom) **(task steps performed in sequence)**

Walk **** Refresher training assessing one or more**
skills
(STX) **while introducing realistic COE conditions**
(transition skills & link reality of COE)

Run **** Sustainment training under realistic tactical**
(FTX) **conditions, scenarios implementing multiple**
medical & combat survival skills
(COE compliant collective task evaluation)



STX/FTX Required Capabilities to Support Environmental Variables of COE

- **Trans-national Actors (PVOs,NGOs..)**
- **Trans-regional Actors (Ethnic-Religious..)**
- **Multi-national Alliances/Coalitions**
 - **Economic & Political**
- **Civilians of the Battlefield**
- **Criminal Organizations & Drug Trafficking Elements**
- **Media Agencies**



Questions?

TRADOC ADCSINT-Threats Collaboration Center on AKO

SUMMARY

- **Terms & Principles**
 - **Defined OE, COE**
 - **CSA Directive, US Perception & COE**
- **Premises**
- **Critical Variables**
- **COE Framework & References**
- **Pillars of Implementation**